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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208851
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MED-02 SSO-00 HEW-04 AID-05 DHA-05
/027 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S-DKEOGH:LFS
APPROVED BY AF-WBEDMONDSON
M/MED:RRTAGGART (DRAFT)
----------007315 312240Z /62
O P 312209Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, PGOV, SF

SUBJECT: PNEUMOCOCCUS INFECTIONS IN JOHANNESBURG AND DURBAN

1. IN RESPONSE REQUEST FROM DR. PAUL ERLICH, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WE HAVE CONCURRED IN TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA OF DR. JOEL WARD OF HEW, AS OBSERVER TO CONSULT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH OFFICIALS CONCERNING OUTBREAK OF PNEUMO-COCCUS INFECTIONS.

2. THE BACTERIA IS REPORTEDLY HIGHLY RESISTANT TO MOST KNOWN FORMS OF ANTIBIOTICS. ACCORDING TO DR. ERLICH, SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED 80 TO 100 RECENT DEATHS IN JOHANNESBURG AND DURBAN AS A RESULT OF PNEUMONIA AND MENINGITIS. DEATHS WERE MOSTLY OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN HOSPITALS OR OTHERWISE DEBILITATED. OUT-
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BREAK WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, NOT INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

3. DR. WARD WILL CONSULT WITH DR. JAMES GUILILLAND, COORDINATOR OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PRETORIA, AND DR. HORST KUSTNER, CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST. DR. WARD WILL ARRIVE ON PAN AM FLIGHT ARRIVING JOHANNESBURG SEPTEMBER 2.

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4. WE HAVE ADVISED HEW THAT DR. WARD SHOULD, IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE AVOID ANY PUBLICITY WHICH WOULD HIGHLIGHT
HIS TRIP AS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND
U.S. GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED THAT HE GET IN
TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY ON ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA. CHRISTOPHER

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# Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**
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